

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

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1 March 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Members of the Interdepartmental Committee

FROM: Ensign Frederick G. Kilgour, USNR

United States within the meaning of
the Espionage Act, 50 U. S. C. 31 and
32, as amended, as transmission or
the revelation of its contents in any
manner to an unauthorized person is
prohibited by law.

Following are excerpts from a letter recently received from
Reuben Peiss in Lisbon.

"It is almost two months since I wrote my last report, but it
can hardly be said that reports from this office have been
lacking, since Ralph Carruthers has been cleaning up a good
number of odds and ends before departing. Before I go any
further, I think it might be put on record that if civilians
in this war get any distinguished service medals, one should
go to him. It is unnecessary to elaborate: you know very well
how he has built this unit up. Only an extended sojourn here,
however, gives one any true picture of the incessant difficul-
ties which he managed to surmount. As you already know, he is
in London, and you will undoubtedly soon be getting tangible
evidence of his presence.

As for the planning of a quick move, I think you have something
there. Ralph and I have talked over the possibilities, as they
look at this end, and I think he is going to write you about
them from London. I agree entirely that Lisbon will dry up as
a source of publications. The process is already fairly advanced
and several months from now the condition will certainly be ag-
gravated. The post will have to be kept open for some time after
things do dry up, however. If publications slow down, I could
probably be of greater use elsewhere, with somebody left here to
hold the fort. Not that it wouldn't be pleasant sojourning in
Lisbon with work easing off, but I think I should begin to chafe
at the bit before long. So rush Shafer and Mrs. Robinson along
as fast as you can.

We are ordering the Hungarian titles, and with any sort of luck
ought to get some of them. The Livraria Portugalia has good con-
tacts with a Hungarian book dealer. It may take some time, how-
ever, before they come through.

The weather here has been glorious for six solid weeks. Every
day without exception the sun has been brilliant. At noontime
the hardier souls venture out sans sobretudo (which I think a

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wonderful word for overcoat). Everybody is worried about the crops, though. Of course it's the poor people who will get it in the neck, but if the food situation becomes too bad, perhaps Portugal can be induced to discover its ancient and friendly relations with others of the United Nations, and produce some further beneficial move like the Azores deal.

List of books leaving from Lisbon for shipment by sea pouch."

Frederick G. Kilgour

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FGK/vde

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